

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Electronic apparatus comprising:
  - 5 at least first and second connectors spaced apart from one another to accommodate first and second adjacent parallel cards, the first and second connectors located at different distances in a first direction along the first and second cards from an imaginary line extending perpendicular to the parallel cards;
  - 10 a case enclosing the first and second connectors, the case including a wall having first and second aperture-bearing portions respectively carrying first and second apertures respectively located to expose end portions of the first and second cards, the first and second aperture-bearing portions at different levels in the first direction, the case including a transitional portion between the first and second aperture-bearing portions, the transitional portion including at least one vent aperture.
2. Electronic apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the connectors are mounted on a board and the board has an edge extending parallel to the imaginary line.
- 20 25 3. Electronic apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the aperture-bearing portions each extend substantially at right angles to the cards.
4. Electronic apparatus according to claim 1 wherein each of the cards comprises a circuit board and a plate extending substantially

at right angles to the circuit board wherein the plates abut the corresponding aperture-bearing portions.

5. Electronic apparatus according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second aperture-bearing portions is located between two transitional portions of the case, each of the transitional portions extending in a direction parallel to the first and second boards and being penetrated by at least one vent aperture.
- 10 6. Electronic apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the first aperture-bearing portion is on a projection projecting from surrounding parts of the case and the two transitional portions form sides of the projection.
- 15 7. Electronic apparatus according to claim 6 wherein there are venting apertures on transitional portions on at least three sides of the projection.
8. Electronic apparatus according to claim 6 wherein there are venting apertures on each of the two transitional portions.
- 20 9. Electronic apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the transitional portion is substantially parallel to the cards.
- 25 10. Electronic apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the aperture-bearing portions are substantially at right angles to the transitional portion.

11. Electronic apparatus comprising a plurality of mutually-adjacent slots for receiving added cards, each of the slots comprising a connector spaced-apart from an aperture-bearing portion of a case by a standard distance,
  - 5 the aperture-bearing portions of the case each being apertured to expose an end portion of a card, if present, in the corresponding slot and being at a plurality of different levels relative to an imaginary line extending perpendicular to the slots,
  - 10 the case including one or more transitional portions extending between adjacent aperture-bearing portions of different levels, the transitional portions including vent openings.
12. Electronic apparatus according to claim 11 wherein at least one of the aperture-bearing portions of the case projects outwardly past aperture-bearing portions of the case on either side of the at least one aperture-bearing portion.
13. Electronic apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the projecting aperture-bearing portion is rectangular and has longer sides and shorter sides and the case includes venting apertures on a portion of the case adjacent at least one of the shorter sides of the projecting aperture-bearing portion.
14. Electronic apparatus according to claim 11 wherein each of the plurality of aperture-bearing portions is at a different level from all adjacent aperture-bearing portions and the case comprises a transitional portion between each of the plurality of aperture-

bearing portions and each of the adjacent aperture-bearing portions.

15. Electronic apparatus according to claim 11 wherein, for a group of  
5 three or more mutually-adjacent ones of the slots, the levels of the aperture-bearing portions increase stepwise across the group.
16. Electronic apparatus according to claim 11 wherein, for a group of  
10 three or more mutually-adjacent ones of the slots, every second one of the aperture-bearing portions is at a level more outward than levels of adjacent aperture-bearing portions.
17. Electronic apparatus according to claim 11 wherein, for a group of  
15 three or more mutually-adjacent ones of the slots, every second one of the aperture-bearing portions is at a level more inward than levels of adjacent aperture-bearing portions.
18. Electronic apparatus according to claim 10 comprising a card in  
20 each of two adjacent ones of the slots, each of the cards comprising an end plate extending in a direction substantially parallel to the corresponding aperture-bearing portions of the case, the edges of the end plates of the cards being spaced apart in a direction transverse to the slots by a distance **D** wherein a distance measured along a transitional portion of the case connecting the  
25 corresponding aperture-bearing portions of the case exceeds **D** by a factor of at least 3.